Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduced Palace on Wheel's type tourist trains on some routes;

(b) if so, the details of the routes on which such type of trains are to be introduced;

(c) whether the private sector has also been offered to run some of the rountes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the growth of foreign tourists is to be increased due to the introduction of new routes?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e) It has been decided to introduce 'Palace on Wheels' type tourist train services on the following tourist circuits;

(i) Delhi - Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi (Khajuraho)- Varanasi-Lucnow-Delhi.

(ii) Bombay - Aurangabad (Ajaanta/Ellora) - Nanded - Secunderabad- Hyderabad - Pune.Bombay.

(iii) Calcutta - Gaya (Rajgir/Nalanda) - Varanasi (Sarnath) - Gorakhpur (Lumbini/Kushinagar) Bhubaneswar- Puri- Calcutta.

(iv) Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore-Mysore (Belur/Halebid) - Hospet (Hampi) -Bangalore-Goa (Madgaon).

(v) Bangalore- Mysore- Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniya Kumari-Trivandrum-Cochin - Mettupalayam-(Ooty)-Bangalore.

(vi) Delhi - Jaipur - Jodhpur - Jaisalmer- Sawai Madhopur- Bharatpur-Agra-Delhi.

(vii) Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Ahmedabad-Veraval-Palitana-Delhi.

(viii) Madras-Pondicherry-Nagore-Karaikal-Velankini - Tiruchchirapalli- Madurai-Rameswaram - Thanjavur-Chidambaram-Madras.

While global bids have been invited from public and private sectors for the ownership, marketing and management of the tourist trains listed at S. Nos. (i) —(v), on the remaining circuits listed at S. Nos. (vi)— (viii) it has been decided to launch the tourist trains services in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporations of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Global bids were invited upto 25th July, 1994, for attracting investment in tourist train infrasructure. The initial response to the scheme has been encouraging. The measure has been planned to provide the infrastructural support for the implementation of the 'Action Plan' of the Ministry of Tourism to attract 5 million tourists by 1996-97.

Conversion of Railway track from Rongia to Murkongselek

2241. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to undertake conversion of metre-gauge tracks into Broad-gauge from Rongia to Murkongselek Railway Station of N.F. Railways via Rangapara North; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) This work is planned as a Ninth Five Year Plan project.

Non-payment of Salaries to Casual Labourers at Tiruchirapalli

2242. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-payment of salary to 11 (eleven) casual labourers employed in the Southern Railway Employees (Non-Statutory Recognised) Canteen being run incide the Divisional

Railway Manager's Office at Tiruchirapalli over Southern railway for the the past 14 months begining from May, 1993;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the action taken in this regard with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The casual labourers in the canteen in Divisional Railway Manager's office at Tiruchirapalli, were engaged by the Co-operative Society which was managing the canteen. These casual labourers were being paid by the management out of the surpluses of the sale proceeds. In terms of the judgement of the Supreme Court, regular employees of Non-Statutory (Recognised) canteens were treated as railway employees. The said judgement did not cover these casual labourers.

National Highways in the country

2243. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of National Highways in the country, State-wise alongwith their respective route numbers;

(b) what is the total length of roads covered by the National Highways are under the Central Government; and

(c) whether the development of National Highways the under the Central Government; and

(d) if so, amount spent in deveopment of National highways during the period of 1993-94, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) There are 77 National Highways aggregating to 34,058 km. in the country at present. The requisite information is contained in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The required information is given in statement-II.

Statement

National Highways in the country by Shri Nyodek Yonggam, M.P.

S. No.	Name of States	N.H. Hos. (passing through States)	Total Length (km)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	4,5,7,9,16,18 & 43	2 883
2	Arunachal Pradesh	52 & 52A	330
3	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39 44, 51, 52, 52A, 53 & 54	2 296
4	Bihar	2, 6, 23, 28, 28A, 30, 31, 32 & 33	2 117
5	Chandigarh	21	24
6	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 10 & 24	72
7	Goa	4A, 17 & 17A	229
8	Gujarat	8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 14, 15 & NE-1	1631